FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 OCTOBER 1984

Iran-Iraq War

A military announcement broadcast by Tehran radio claimed further successes for the Iranian offensive in the Meymak area of Ilam Province, asserting that the Iranians "smashed" several brigades and battalions of Iraq's II Army Corps, killing and capturing hundreds of men and liberating more than 50 km of Iranian territory. However, the Iraqi military command maintained that its II Army Corps repulsed and destroyed the attack, striking powerfully at the "retreating" enemy and killing over 900 Iranians, according to a communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi helicopters directed "devastating" strikes against Iranian troop concentrations in the area, the statement added. As for the southern front, the Iraqi communique stated that Iraqi troops killed 250 Iranians in their 17 October raid against positions east of Basra. However, an Iranian communique carried by Tehran radio reaffirmed Iran's claim to have crushed the Iraqi raid, asserting that 100 Iraqis were killed and 40 were captured. Earlier, a military statement broadcast by Tehran radio announced the death of an Iranian commander, Brigadier General Hasan Aqarehparast.

Commenting on the military situation, Baghdad radio warned Iran that its new offensive will be an "utter fiasco." The Iranians are deluded "if they believe that the central sector is their opportunity, or even if they believe that their attack will divert Iraqi forces to this sector at the expense of other areas," the radio contended.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Majlis rejected Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi's nominee for the post of defense minister, IRNA reported. Musavi's candidate, Colonel Farrokh 'Azimi-E'temadi, failed to win an overall majority. In another development, KYODO confirmed that Japanese workers have evacuated the petrochemical plant at Bandar-e Khomeyni.

Iraq-USSR

Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Moscow on 18 October and began talks with his Soviet counterpart Andrey Gromyko the following day, TASS reported. Baghdad radio said the talks will cover all aspects of bilateral relations, the Middle East situation, and the continued Iranian "aggression" against Iraq.

Syria-USSR

President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus after concluding a "cordial working visit" to the USSR during which he held "successful" talks with President Konstantin Chernenko and other Soviet leaders, Damascus radio reported. The two sides discussed Soviet military assistance to Syria and made "decisions" in this regard, according to a joint statement on the talks broadcast by the radio. The Syrian and Soviet leaders condemned U.S. and Israeli policies in the Middle East, particularly the attempts to divide the Arabs through "separate deals," the "terrorist practices, provocations, and pressures" against Lebanon, and the efforts of the United States to increase its military presence in the Gulf and the Red Sea. The two sides also "noted broad coincidences" in views on international issues, the statement added. They considered that personal meetings between the two leaders are an "important and useful" method of developing bilateral relations, the statement said, and Chernenko "gratefullyaccepted" Al-Asad's invitation to visit Syria.

On the Palestinian issue, the joint statement said the Syrian and Soviet leaders exchanged "detailed ideas" about the Palestinian resistance, adding that Syria and the USSR believe in overcoming the differences within the PLO on the basis of a nationalist, progressive, and anti-imperialist course. However, a TASS report on the communique did not mention this reference to the PLO.

While Syrian papers cited by Damascus radio stressed the "strategic" importance of Al-Asad's visit, KUNA again noted "indications" that his visit was extended for 1 day because of the failure of the two sides to reach a formula for "strategic cooperation."

Lebanon

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres still believes that Israel must retain the option of a partial unilateral withdrawal from the western and central sectors of Lebanon if Syria refuses to reach an agreement with the Israelis, an Israeli Government source disclosed in remarks cited by IDF radio. The source also stated that Israel regards UNIFIL as the main pillar for security arrangements in southern Lebanon and views the role of the army of southern Lebanon as "marginal." The difference between this position and that outlined in the official statement issued on 17 October "evidently reflects a difference in the assessment and emphasis between the prime minister's office and the foreign and defense ministries," the radio added.

As for the UNIFIL commander's proposal to sponsor Israeli-Lebanese talks on security arrangements, both IDF and Jerusalem radio said Israel will agree to hold such talks although it does not want UN officials to preside over the meetings. Israel has also rejected Lebanon's demand that the talks be held in the framework of the 1949 Armistice Commission, according to the radios. In Beirut, the director of the UN Information Office confirmed that Lebanon has not yet officially replied to the UNIFIL commander's proposal, Beirut radio noted.

PLO

Algeria will not host the PNC session before "a comprehensive agreement is reached between all Palestinian revolutionary factions," Fatah dissident leader Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha stated in remarks reported by KUNA following a recent meeting between Algerian officials and a National Alliance delegation.

OPEC

In view of the "critical situation" in the world oil market, OPEC oil ministers will meet in Geneva on 29 October to consider ways to defend the present OPEC price structure, an OPEC spokesman announced in a statement reported by OPECNA. Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) stated that the Abu Dhabi Government has not made any decision to adjust ADNOC's prices, according to WAKH. The Manama *GULF DAILY NEWS* had earlier disclosed that Abu Dhabi was expected to shelve the UAE oil minister's call for a price cut in ADNOC's light crude because of fears that such a move would trigger a chain reaction. However, Nigeria, another OPEC member, followed the British and Norwegian price cuts by announcing a price reduction of $2 per barrel in Nigerian Bonny Light, AFP reported.

Pakistan

Three universities have been closed in Sind Province following the death of five students in a clash with police, Delhi radio reported.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 204 *19 October 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Capture of Rebels, Weapons Reported in Provinces ..... C 1
Mujahidin Repulse 'Soviet-Karmal Offensive' *[SPA]* ..... C 1
Barialay, Mangal Receive British Communist Leader ..... C 1
Chernenko's Replies to WASHINGTON POST Lauded ..... C 1
ANIS Reports Paktia Tribal Assemblies Formed ..... C 2

INDIA

Murphy Begins 4-Day Visit to Delhi 20 Oct ..... E 1
10 Arrested For Causing Breach in Punjab Canal ..... E 1
Students Confess More Crimes ..... E 1
TIMES Decries Nuclear Umbrella for Pakistan *[12 Oct]* ..... E 1

PAKISTAN

5 Killed, 7 Injured in Shooting Incident ..... F 1
Universities Closed Following Deaths *[Delhi]* ..... F 1
THE MUSLIM on Foreign Minister's Statement *[5 Oct]* ..... F 1
THE MUSLIM on Istiqlal Leader Interview *[3 Oct]* ..... F 1
NAWA-E WAQT Notes Need for Greater Unity *[11 Oct]* ..... F 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

BANGLADESH

BBS Reports on New Shortwave Transmitter ..... G 1
Opposition To Resist Move To Hold Elections *[Delhi]* ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

Dhaka Reports Attack by 'Terrorist Boat' ..... G 1

IRAN

Reportage on Fighting, Iraqi Counterattack ..... I 1
Volunteers Leave for Battlefronts ..... I 1
Joint Staff Communique 1,884 ..... I 1
Success in Meymak Reported ..... I 1
Captured Iraqi Officers Speak ..... I 1
Iraqi Counterattacks 'Repulsed' ..... I 2
Further on Iraqi Counterattacks ..... I 2
3 Iraqi Aircraft Downed ..... I 2
Lloyd's Reports 2 Killed in Gulf Ship Attack ..... I 3
Tehran Report on Attack ..... I 3
Presence of Turkish Forces in Iraq Denounced ..... I 3
Japanese Workers Evacuating Petrochemical Project *[KYODO]* ..... I 3
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon ..... I 4
Further on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sermon ..... I 4
Majlis Speaker on Security, Military Training ..... I 5
Speaker Sends Message to Kuwaiti Counterpart ..... I 6

Majlis Rejects Defense Minister Nominee ..... I 6
Reportage on Visit of Romanian Official ..... I 6
Received by Velayati ..... I 6
Visits Dam Site, Factories ..... I 6
Meets With Energy Minister ..... I 6
Received by Musavi ..... I 7
Meets President Khamene'i ..... I 7

Capture of Rebels, Weapons Reported in Provinces
LD182313 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Quoting responsible security forces sources in Faryab Province, a BIA correspondent reports that as a result of successful coperations, which were recently mounted by the security forces in the villages of that province, 54 rebels were crushed and 2 DSHK's, 2 rocket launchers along with 32 shells, 58 assorted weapons along with 5,384 rounds of ammunition, 2 ZK1's, one heavy machingegun, 7 hand grenades, 41 mortar shells, 36 shells for recoilless guns, and a communication unit were seized. Four of their hideouts were also destroyed.

BIA correspondents report from the Paktika, Badghis, Konar, Nangarhar, Konduz, and Kabul Provinces that during successful operations which were mounted by the vigilant security forces in the villages of those provinces, a number of armed rebels, who were disrupting the peaceful life of the localities, were crushed. Fourteen criminals have been captured and 4 DSHK's, 2 mortars, 8 rocket launchers, 244 hand grenades, 12 assorted weapons, and a large quantity of ammunition were seized. Their hideouts were also destroyed.

Mujahidin Repulse 'Soviet-Karmal Offensive'
LD181352 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1905 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] London, Oct 17, SPA — Afghan mujahideen have repulsed a Soviet-Karmal offensive on their training camps on the outskirts of Ghazi-Serai and forced the attackers to retreat with heavy losses, the AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY reported today.

The agency said the training camps were also bombed by Soviet helicopter gunships, but a copter was shot down by anti-aircraft fire, resulting in the four Soviet Karmal troops and the crew. [sentence as received]

It added that the Soviet helicopters struck at mujahideen positions in the Dahak sub-division on the morning of September 27.

The agency said Soviet-Karmal forces also raided another training camp of mujahideen near Godal Ahengran village near Ghazni on September 23, which resulted in the loss of 15 Soviet lives and the retreat of the invaders following stiff resistance put up by the freedom fighters.

It added that the mujahideen also captured six Kalashnikov rifles and a sizeable quantity of other weapons.

Barialay, Mangal Receive British Communist Leader
LD190928 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Commitee, received Eric Trevett, general secretary of the New Communist Party of Britain, in his office this morning.

During the meeting Mahmud Barialay spoke in detail about the consolidation of the gains of the Afghan people in defense of the April Revolution and the consolidation of the tangible and intangible pillars of the revolution. Mahmud Barialay pointed to the conspiracies of hegemonist, reactionary, and imperialist forces who are waging an undeclared war and to the level of interference and aggression against the revolution and the people of Afghanistan.

The general secretary of the New Communist Party, expressed delight at the progress of the revolutionary process in Afghanistan under the leadership of the PDPA and vigorously denounced the barbarity and crimes of the counterrevolutionaries and their imperialist supporters, against the revolution and the people of the DRA.

Mahmud Barialay and Eric Trevett noted the unanimity of their views on topical international issues and expressed the readiness of both sides to pursue a relentless struggle for peace and social progress.

They denounced the militarist policy of warmongering circles, in particular the Reagan administration which wants to draw the world into a nuclear catastrophe.

During these talks the two sides discussed the activities of the two parties and the broadening of the present relations between the PDPA and the New Communist Party.

According to another report, Sarwar Mangal, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and head of the State Planning Committee, also met with Eric Trevett, general secretary of the New Communist Party of Britain.

A BIA correspondent reports that at this meeting Sarwar Mangal explained the plan indices of the past year and the development plans for the coming years for the development of the country's national economy.

At the end of the meeting, Sawar Mangal presented Eric Trevett with a book on the DRA's socioeconomic plan for the year beginning 21 March 1984.

Chernenko's Replies to WASHINGTON POST Lauded
LD190640 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Kabul, October 18, BAKHTAR: A political observer of BIA writes:

The interview granted by Konstantin U. Chernenko, general secretary of the Central Committee of CPSU and president of Presidium of USSR Supreme Soviet, to a senior *WASHINGTON POST* correspondent in Moscow, has drawn the attention of the political circles and millions of people throughout the world.

Konstantin Chernenko in his answers once again explained the clear and principled position of the Soviet Union regarding the most vital issues including nuclear arms control and the superpowers relations.

The Soviet leader in his answers proved the Soviet Union's sincere and genuine desire for the cessation of arms race and reduction of the war danger.

He singled out four major arms control issues and asked the United States to try to reach agreement with Moscow on at least one of them.

The Soviet leader emphasized that the Soviet Union decisively and earnestly is ready to proceed to negotiations with a view to working out and concluding an agreement to prevent the militarization of outer space, including complete renunciation of anti-satellite systems, with a mutual moratorium on testing and deployment of space weapons. Now, it is for Washington to respond.

The United States speaks of the non-militarization of outer space in words. But in practice, it is engaged in testing nuclear weapons.

The deployment of weapons to outer space has already begun by Washington. Now Reagan administration says that the Soviet Union should give concessions. What concessions should it give as the Soviet Union has not deployed any weapons to the outer space.

The proposal of the Soviet Union as to the commitment of non-militarisation of outer space and the freezing of all nuclear weapons quantitatively and qualitatively by the nuclear powers are put forward in a clear and honest manner. But the United States refrains from giving a constructive answer. The leader of the White House has declared that agreement on freezing nuclear weapons disrupts the existing balance. One can ask what balance would be disrupted by it, whereas the agreement on that matter could radically facilitate further agreements on reduction and eventually complete elimination of such weapons.

The U.S. answer to the commitment made by the Soviet Union in assuming an obligation not to be the first to use nuclear weapons has always been nil. If the United States would follow the example of the Soviet Union to this effect there would [words indistinct] users of nuclear weapons in the world.

But it is not so. The United States seeks military superiority over the Soviet Union.

Talking of peace, cessation of arms race and the mutual reduction of forces are merely tactical moves practiced by the United States.

ANIS Reports Paktia Tribal Assemblies Formed

LD181521 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto and Dari 0205 GMT 17 Oct 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] *ANIS*, in its latest issue, in addition to a number of national and international news reports, has published various articles, including one entitled "The Formation of Seven Tribal Assemblies by the Tribes and Clans of Khowst," which reads in part: Seven consultative tribal assemblies have been held this year with different tribes and clans on different topics through the Directorate of Tribal and Nationalities Affairs in Khowst District, Paktia Province, aimed at consolidating unity among tribes and clans in the region. Various protocols were signed in this regard.

After the victory of the April Revolution, particularly its new development stage, the rights of every tribe, clan, and all nationalities have been respected, their rights and duties recognized, and links with the masses within the framework of the tribes and clans of the Khowst District have been in turn strengthened through tribal assemblies, and the tribal assembly system, which, as an essential page in our history, has become stronger than ever.

Most interpersonnel, national, and regional problems in this area are being solved through these tribal assemblies.

During the current year, seven tribal assemblies have been formed by the Directorate of Tribal and Nationalities Affairs in Khowst, Tani, Jaj' Meydan, Matun, Lakan, Yaqubi, (Piran), and Shamal Districts, with whom specific protocols have been signed after recording the topics discussed.

Murphy Begins 4-Day Visit to Delhi 20 Oct

BK190510 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The U.S. assistant secretary of state, Mr Richard Murphy, is arriving in New Delhi tomorrow. During his 4-day stay in the capital he will call on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha, and have talks with the foreign secretary, Mr Rasgotra, and other officials. The U.S. supply of arms to Pakistan will be among the subjects of discussion. Bilateral matters and regional developments will also figure in the talks.

10 Arrested For Causing Breach in Punjab Canal

BK181319 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] In Punjab, police have arrested 10 culprits responsible for causing breaches in the Bhakra main canal during June and July this year. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh today that the police arrested the culprits after raiding their hideouts at Ropar. One rifle and five pistols were recovered from their possession.

The spokesman said that on interrogation the culprits admitted that they were responsible for causing the breaches. All the culprits are members of the banned All India Sikh Students Federation and they confessed to have committed the crime on instructions given to them earlier by the head of the organization. They said that the breaches were caused with an aim to disturb the peace in the state.

Students Confess More Crimes

BK190514 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] In Punjab, 10 activists of the banned All India Sikh Students Federation, arrested by the Ropar police, have also confessed to have committed some more crimes in Ropar District. They were arrested for allegedly causing breaches in Bhakra canal in June and July.

According to an official spokesman, their crimes include attempts to sabotage inter-state power transmission lines, railway and road bridges, and two attempted murders.

TIMES Decries Nuclear Umbrella for Pakistan

BK181336 Delhi TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Oct 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Letter or Plant"]

[Text] It is clearly impossible for us to vouch for the accuracy or otherwise of President Reagan's reported letter to President Ziaul Haq. On the face of it, it is difficult to believe that a communication of such far-reaching importance — it offers a nuclear umbrella to Pakistan and a continuation of the existing security relationship between the two countries beyond the present provision of 1987 — would not have become known to the American press and that it would have been left to the Washington correspondent of the *NAWA-E WAQT*, Lahore, to disclose its contents.

The timing of it is also rather odd. President Reagan is engaged in an election campaign and should normally be expected to await its result before making such a proposal. This argument would, of course, not hold if the U.S. Administration has reasons to apprehend that Pakistan is about to hold a nuclear test and thus cross the Rubicon. But President Zia cannot possibly be planning to renege on his assurances, however phoney in terms of his intentions and long-term plans, regarding the peaceful nature of his nuclear programme so long as the current U.S. military assistance programme is in operation. He knows that a nuclear test by him would make it virtually impossible for the Reagan administration to continue the military assistance. However, if this line of reasoning would suggest that President Reagan's reported letter is a plant, the nature of the offer, though far-reaching, is in conformity with Washington's broad approach towards Pakistan except in respect of the nuclear umbrella.

There is another line of speculation which could lend a measure of credence to the possibility that President Reagan might in fact have written to President Zia. It cannot, for example, be ruled that President Zia has written to President Reagan saying that Pakistan faces a threat on both the eastern and the western front and that the U.S. chief executive has replied to the Pakistani general to reassure him. There is a catch in this argument. Which is that whatever view General Zia takes of India's nuclear programme and overall designs towards Pakistan and of Soviet-Afghan intentions, he cannot possibly argue that he faces a nuclear threat from either direction.

Why then the U.S. offer of the nuclear umbrella? And we know from our own experience of our discussions with the U.S., the USSR and Britain during the sixties that a nuclear umbrella is not a feasible proposition without bases and storage of nuclear weapons in that country. Like the multilateral force which President Kennedy proposed for Europe and then abandoned as being unpracticable, the concept of a nuclear umbrella raises too many problems. But it is on the other hand, possible that President Reagan has made the offer as a kind of ploy to persuade Pakistan to accede to the non-proliferation treaty.

Leaving the nuclear issue aside, however, it can safely be assumed that the U.S. would be willing to do whatever is necessary to reassure Pakistan about its security, that it would have no objection to the transfer of AWACS by Saudi Arabia to Islamabad and that it would wish to continue the present security relationship beyond 1987. This does not prove that Mr Reagan has sent a specific communication to President Zia. But that is not a particularly important issue for us in India to settle. We are more interested in assessing the U.S. view of its ties with Pakistan and in that context the *NAWA-E WAQT* report is interesting regardless of whether it is accurate or whether it is a plant.

5 Killed, 7 Injured in Shooting Incident

BK190954 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] A press note issued in Hyderabad last night says that the police were informed on Wednesday that a group of notorious criminals armed with lethal weapons was willing to go to Larkana via the Indus highway.

At about 1500 two vehicles were seen coming from Hyderabad at the (Toring) railway crossing. The vehicles were ordered to stop and the persons inside were asked to come out, but the drivers tried to turn the vehicles around to flee. Simultaneously, the persons in the vehicles began firing at the police with automatic weapons. The police then fired back in self defense, and in the ensuing exchange of fire 1 police constable and 11 other persons were injured. Five of the injured later died.

Persons riding in the two vehicles were taken into custody and 3 Kalashnikov rifles, 1,390 bullets, and 1 pistol in their possession were recovered. Three of the five dead and four of the seven injured were later identified as students. The police took 88 people, including 51 students, into custody.

Universities Closed Following Deaths

BK190444 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] In Pakistan, three universities have been closed in Sind Province following the death of five students in the clash between the police and a group of university students. The incident occurred on Wednesday, when a group of students refused to let an Army patrol search two buses in which they were traveling. The students were on their way to attend the seminar in Larkana. The police tried to stop the bus because they suspected that some criminals were traveling in the bus. Reports say 80 people were arrested after the incident.

THE MUSLIM on Foreign Minister's Statement

GF181536 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Oct 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Sahabzada's Plain Talk"]

[Text] The anxiety caused in recent weeks by reports that one of the options before the country was to grant military bases to the United States was assuaged by the President himself in his talk with newsmen some days ago. Now Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan has made a similar reassuring declaration on the international stage. On Tuesday, he told the United Nations General Assembly that Pakistan, being a non-aligned country, would never be a party to any military bloc nor would it grant bases to any foreign power. We hope after these two categorical pronouncements all speculation on this subject will cease.

Speaking at the current session of the General Assembly, the Foreign Minister touched upon issues of crucial importance to the country. Adverting to the somewhat sudden and unexpected frustration of our efforts to promote a meaningful and cordial relationship with India, which have been blocked by an inexplicable change in New Delhi's attitude, he told the international community that Pakistan's endeavour to create a climate conducive to the promotion of confidence, understanding and mutual trust between the two countries was a basic plank of this country's policy. But, he said, "we shall remain undaunted by temporary setbacks in pursuing the charter course of peace and good neighbourly relations." At the same time, he referred to the need for an honourable settlement of the festering issue of occupied Jammu and Kashmir to ensure lasting and durable peace between the two neighbouring countries.

It is obvious that India's continued occupation of the Himalayan Valley, despite the promises made to the world body by the late prime minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, that a plebiscite would be held in the disputed territory, had led to a crisis of confidence and generated distrust in New Delhi's commitments. That solemn pledge was never redeemed: neither by the late Mr. Nehru nor by his illustrious daughter who inherited his mantle as prime minister of her great country. And this contentious issue has, since partition of the sub-continent, been primarily responsible for the growing alienation between the two countries.

And yet, Islamabad is still prepared, Sahabzada said, to revive and intensify the negotiations (which New Delhi chose to discontinue) and to take concrete steps to foster mutual cooperation. It is now for Mrs. Gandhi to make a positive response to Pakistan's sincere desire for the establishment of friendly relations with India so that the two may devote their energies to improve the lot of their respective peoples.

The foreign minister also referred to Pakistan's offer of a non-aggression pact to India in 1981, and said that it still remains an important initiative aimed at removing mistrust and fear, adding that this country was giving "constructive consideration" to India's counter proposal of a "treaty of peace and friendship." He referred to the encouraging progress that had been made till May last in the negotiations between the two countries to work out an integrated text, and said that if the matter was pursued, differences, if any, could be ironed out. It is sad, however, that India appears to have lost interest in the exercise which could have eliminated misgivings and made room for early detente.

In the course of his wide-ranging speech, the foreign minister reaffirmed Pakistan's stand on Afghanistan, Middle East, and other burning international issues. On all of them Pakistan's position is a principled one and has remained constant over the years. However, one would like to see Pakistan playing a more positive role in the current campaign, spearheaded by Iran and Libya, to eject the Zionist entity from the United Nations.

THE MUSLIM on Istiqlal Leader Interview

GF181530 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Oct 84 p 4

[By correspondent Ashraf Hashmi]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 2: The chief of the defunct Tehrik-e-Istiqlal, Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan, has strongly denied

rumours that his release from detention came as a result of some arrangement or understanding between his party and the government or that he and his party had secretly been in touch with official quarters in the recent past.

Talking to *THE MUSLIM* at his residence, the retired air marshal, who was formally set free during the early hours of this morning, said that nobody from the government side had met him for the last so many months. The last emissary of the government, he said was General Arif who came to see him. Since then he had never met anyone and no one from the government side had approached him. Talk of a secret deal of understanding, he said, was absurd.

When asked to comment on his release, he said he did not know why he was detained four years ago or why he had been set free now.

The air marshal looked relaxed and cheerful as he mixed freely with a large number of callers who had gathered at his residence.

Questioned about the possibilities of negotiations with the government, he said nobody had yet approached him for such negotiations. If, however, any invitation was extended he would like to know in advance what was to be discussed. Having lived in isolation for such a long time, he said he was not exactly aware of the situation prevailing in the country. Yet he firmly believed that the modalities of the elections as laid down under the 1973 Constitution were not negotiable. No discussions, he said, could be held on this question. Fully endorsing the MRD's stand on the question of a political dialogue with the government, the chief of the defunct Tehrik-e-Istiqlal said that the government was already aware of the point of view of the political parties. The MRD's stand on elections was very clear and there was no imbiguity about it which needed any negotiation.

Talking about his future programme, he said he would stay in Abbottabad for a week and then go out to meet his friends and political colleagues.

According to BBC, the chief of Tehrik-e-Istiqlal Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan has said that the transfer of power to a civilian government is a matter of the foremost concern.

He said that this required holding of elections in a free atmosphere.

The Tehrik chief said that it is important to ensure full participation of all political parties in the forthcoming election. If it does not happen then the whole exercise would be a waste of time.

He said his party would await the official announcement of elections before deciding whether to contest or boycott them.

NAWA-E WAQT Notes Need for Greater Unity

GF161850 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 11 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Internal National Unity — What is the Hindrance?"]

[Excerpts] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that we are fully conscious of the situation at the borders and that there should be no anxiety over the country's security. The fundamental need is to keep the ranks unified at all levels. All Pakistanis should work to make Pakistan strong, ignoring all mutual differences, because foreign powers only cast covetous eyes on a country which is suffering from internal disunity and discord.

The internal national unity stressed by President Ziaul Haq does not need any further explanation; it will not be incorrect to say that internal national unity is not only the need of the hour, but is also the desire and cry of every Pakistani's heart. The irony of it all is that the rulers, the politicians, those who grace the pulpits and niches [in mosques] also stress it ostensibly, but the tolerance and respect for each other's needs and susceptibilities and the courage to accept different points of view and to make some sacrifices in creating "unity in discord" is only advocated verbally. Instead of setting an example by practising such a policy, they expect others to consider it their responsibility to foster unity by ignoring differences. This contrast between word and deed is the reason why we only hear talk of the need for domestic unity and harmony. If we make an intensive survey of the situation, we can perceive the utter lack of it.

The external dangers looming overhead are clear to one and all as far as their nature and direction is concerned. We often hear mention of the term "internal national unity" which is bandied about regularly. In this context we stress "democracy," "elections," delegation of power, and the participation of people in national and government affairs. But if the higher echelons and the politicians resolve their differences, then the way will be paved for the greater national unity which we hear so much about. It will not be as inaccessible and impossible as is envisaged. Whatever the differences, the program for the restitution of democracy, the modus operandi for the elections, and the delegation of power and participation of the people in government can only be possible by means of negotiations, without any mental reservations and in an openhearted manner.

We say that internal national unity is the most important need, but we are not prepared to be tolerant or to make even the slightest concessions to another's viewpoint and are stricken with egocentricity and the obsession that only we are right. We insist on negotiations, but for this we need a positive initiative which is thwarted by our self-centered attitude.

BANGLADESH

BBS Reports on New Shortwave Transmitter

BK181343 Dhaka BSS in English 0934 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Dhaka, Oct. 18, BSS — A high frequency short wave transmitter and aerial system has been inaugurated near here which will be capable of broadcasting programmes round the clock.

The two 250 kw transmitter set up at Savar near here yesterday was established with French assistance.

The transmission will help major portions of the external service.

Opposition To Resist Move To Hold Elections

BK190855 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] In Bangladesh, the main opposition parties have decided to resist at all cost the military government's move to hold upazila [subdivisional] elections. Leaders of both the mail alliances, who met in Dhaka, have strongly protested against President Ershad's announcement of holding the elections to initiate the process of democratization.

The alliances in separate but identical statements said that such a move would be disastrous and would push the nation toward peril. They urged the government to shun the path of confrontation and settle basic political issues for the establishment of democracy in the country.

SRI LANKA

Dhaka Reports Attack by 'Terrorist Boat'

BK190200 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a soldier was killed when a terrorist boat opened fire on a military convoy yesterday. Police reports said that there had been a 30-minute long exchange of fire, but it did not provide more details. Military sources said that it was not known whether the terrorists suffered any casualties.

Reportage on Fighting, Iraqi Counterattack

Volunteers Leave for Battlefronts

GF180556 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] In order to help the other warriors of Islam at the battlefronts of right against wrong, a group of 450 members of the mobilization department of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of District No 2 left this afternoon for the fronts of light against darkness after a ceremony.

According to a report by the central news unit in Najafabad, over 100 self-sacrificing mobilization and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps personnel of Najafabad left for the battlefronts amid ceremonies by the Hezbollahi people in order to help the capable warriors of the army of monotheism.

Joint Staff Communique 1,884

LD181857 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its Communique No 1,884, while offering its greetings to all mighty and valiant sons of Islam and paying tribute to all victorious warriors of the battlefields of right against evil, has announced:

The mighty defenders of Islam from 2300 yesterday launched an operation in Meymak's general sector in the border region of Ilam that with the aid of the great Almighty has been completely successful and has so far resulted in the liberation of tens of square kilometers of the Islamic homeland's territory, as well as some other regions and heights.

Also yesterday our combatants in the southern region crushed an enemy operation. In that region artillery fire was exchanged between our units and those of the enemy, and its intensity in the form of [word indistinct] fire was in the Hoseyniyeh-Kushk region. In this region an enemy force consisting of mechanized and commando units, with the aim of obstructing our forces' massing, launched an operation with artillery support at 1000 on 17 October 1984. But the enemy operation met with the Islamic combatants' resistance and sacrifices and was neutralized at 1130 on the same day and the region was cleared of the enemy's presence. As a result of these operations the enemy has left behind more than 100 dead, 40 have been captured, and a considerable number of the enemy have been injured. At 1800 on 16 October in the vicinity of Chazzabah our forces' fire killed or wounded 10 members of an enemy patrol group and the rest fled.

At midnight on 16 October our combat units repulsed the enemy's patrol operation in the Zubaydat region.

Enemy losses observed in the operational sectors of Piranshahr, Sar Dasht, Hajj 'Umran, and the border fronts of Bakhtaran were the destruction of 4 trucks, 2 drilling vehicles, 8 weaponry and observation posts, and casualties totaling approximately 40 dead and injured.

Success in Meymak Reported

LD181756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The joint operational headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces and the Islamic Corps of Revolution Guards announced:

The anti-infidel forces of the Islamic Army and the God-seeking self-sacrificing of the army of monotheism, following the harassing actions taken by the Zionist forces ruling over Iraq which took place in the Meymak area, last night launched an attack against the enemy forces in the Meymak area in Ilam Province in order to liberate the region's important heights and silence the enemy's fire on the border villages, as well as to smash forces in the sector. As a result of the attack, our forces succeeded in dealing heavy losses and casualties on the enemy.

During these operations, the 4th Infantry Highland Brigade of the second Division; the 12th Armored Independent Brigade; one tank battalion; one commando battalion; one artillery brigade and one anti-tank battery were smashed, with hundreds of the enemy troops being either killed or wounded. Moreover, more than 100 enemy personnel, including dozens of officers and NCO's, were captured by our forces. The Islamic combatants, during their successful operations, having crossed natural obstacles in the said mountainous region, also crossed minefields, as well as other obstacles. Consequently, having launched a heavy attack on the enemy forces, they liberated the 325th and 382nd Fosil Heights, the 295th and 348th Garkani, Kuh Gachi Heights as well as Garkani post and the Tang-e Bijar-Tang-e Bina road. Our forces, therefore, liberated a total of more than 50 km of the Islamic homeland from the occupation of the forces of the Zionist regime ruling over Baghdad.

With the stationing of the Islamic forces in their new positions, the Badreh-Mandali, the Zurbatiyah-Do Sheykh, Kaseh Kaf post and Kaseh Kaf heights and the Iraqi Angazi post were brought under our fire. The Islamic forces, at present bringing the enemy positions under fire, are engaged in strengthening their positions in the operational sectors.

Captured Iraqi Officers Speak

GF190618 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Following the abortive attack by the Zionist-Ba'thist forces of Iraq south of Kushk, which culminated in the taking of Saddamist POW's, two Iraqi POW's who are officers spoke to IRNA about their capture. In this interview, a second officer of the 2d Company, 2d Battalion of the 20th Brigade of the 5th Armored Division of Iraq said:

The orders for the offensive were given by the 5th Division of Iraq to our units. Due to a lack of readiness, some lower-ranking officers opposed the operations, but the area commanders were insistent in carrying out the operations in order to boost the morale of the soldiers. Finally, at 0920 on 17 October, the Iraqi forces launched the attack by mobilizing the 2d Battalion of the 20th Brigade with the support of a commando company and

artillery fire. In the beginning of the attack we thought that we would be able to occupy the Iranian embankments easily, but to our great amazement, an hour after the attack we found ourselves besieged by the forces of Islam and more than 100 of our forces were killed and some of us who had surrendered were safe. This captured Iraqi officer, who is a resident of Baghdad, said that the Iraqi Army has been gripped by fear and apprehension as it has anticipated an Iranian attack at any moment.

Another Iraqi POW, who is a communications lieutenant from the 2d Company, 2d Battalion of the 20th Iraqi Brigade, said in this regard: The resistance that the Islamic combatants displayed in our attack the day before yesterday is unimaginable and we had never seen such valor and resistance. Regarding the Iraqi domestic situation, he said the people of Iraq are in a deplorable situation and the Ba'thist-Zionist Saddamist regime continues its government through repression and force. This Iraqi officer said that recently a wave of opposition to the Saddam regime had been rising in the Iraqi Armed Forces.

Iraqi Counterattacks 'Repulsed'

LD191049 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 84

[From the news headlines]

[Text] Two enemy counterattacks launched today, deploying armored and commando battalions, were repulsed. As a result, 500 enemy troops were either killed or wounded.

Iraqi planes, attempting to compensate for their defeats on the battlefronts, bombed the vicinity of the Saleh Abad civilian area at noon today. As a result of this diabolical raid, six people have been reported as martyred.

Further on Iraqi Counterattacks

LD191132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] According to a report from the Joint Operational Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps from the western sector of the country, following their victorious operations in the Meymak heights which culminated in the liberation of several important heights in the region and inflicting heavy defeat on the Zionist enemy, our combatants continued last night and today to fortify their positions. By opening heavy fire on enemy positions, our forces caused further losses and casualties to the Iraqi forces.

Reports from IRNA correspondents and the Central News Unit say that following the successful attack by the Islamic forces in the Meymak sector, yesterday the Zionist enemy launched a counterattack to recapture their lost positions. However, the counterattack was foiled by the courageous Islamic forces. As a result the enemy fled, leaving a great many dead and wounded troops behind. A number of enemy troops were captured.

Today, the vanquished enemy deployed armored and commando battalions and launched two counterattacks in two phases. In the first phase, enemy tanks were halted by mud following last night's rainfall. In the second phase, the Islamic combatants smashed the enemy troops and managed to repel the counterattack.

During these confrontations more than 500 enemy troops were either killed or wounded.

At the moment, a large number of corpses of enemy troops can be seen in the operational sector. Also, dozens of other members of the forces of the Zionist regime ruling over Baghdad were captured today by the blasphemy-fighting forces of Islam and were evacuated behind the fronts from Bakhtaran on these clashes.

[Begin recording unidentified reporter] Following the successful offensive of the forces of Islam in the Meymak operational sector which led to the liberation of a number of heights and 50 square kilometers of our Islamic homeland, ever since this morning the Zionist enemy with a number of aircraft and by regrouping its tanks and defeated troops launched a heavy counterattack in the vicinity of the small towns bordering the Helali plain, but the Saddamist forces were scattered as the result of the effective and heavy artillery fire of the forces of Islam. According to the report ofthe correspondents of the Central News Unit who were dispatched to the Meymak operational sector and who were present on the battlefields, the enemy losses are reported as including many dead and wounded. The same report also says that the vigilant antiaircraft defense of the region with their heavy fire forced the Iraqi aircraft to flee. The same report also says that last night the Zionist enemy was trying to carry out some operations with one tank battalion, but their tanks got stuck in the mud from the previous night's heavy rainfall. Also last night one enemy commando battalion which was trying to approach the Islamic units was scattered as the result of the vigilance of our forces and a number of them were captured. As of 1000 hours this morning, 12 of the Iraqi POW's were evacuated behind the fronts.

At present an exchange of artillery fire between the Islamic forces and the infidel Saddamist forces is in progress, with our forces maintaining superiority. On the basis of available reports quoting Iraqi POW's, the defeated Iraqi forces have sought aid from the Second Corps. [words indistinct] The Islamic combatants are reported to be strengthening the (?captured) positions. [end recording]

3 Iraqi Aircraft Downed

LD191704 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1636 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] On the basis of the latest report received from the combined operational headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, three enemy aircraft were downed this afternoon by the Islamic forces' fire in the Meymak operational sector.

The report adds that this afternoon the enemy launched a counterattack in this region with one armored brigade, but the remarkable resistance of the forces of Islam forced it to retreat,

leaving behind more than 500 dead and wounded, and at least 27 destroyed tanks and 3 engineering vehicles. Also one 122mm battery and two ammunition depots of the enemy were set on fire.

During today's clashes five tanks and some medium-weight weapons of the enemy were captured intact by the forces of Islam.

A total of more than 1,000 enemy troops were either killed or wounded by the forces of Islam and a number of them were captured.

Lloyd's Reports 2 Killed in Gulf Ship Attack

NC191408 Paris AFP in English 1350 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] London, Oct 19 (AFP) — The Panamanian ship *Pacific Protector* was attacked in the Gulf today off Qatar and two people on board were killed, Lloyd's Information Service reported here.

Lloyd's was unable to say whether the ship, which provides support for divers in offshore oil-drilling operations, was attacked by Iranian or Iraqi aircraft. A number of people were reported wounded in addition to the fatalities.

U.S. naval vessels were moving toward the site of the incident, Lloyd's said.

(Reports from Bahrain said the ship had sent out an S.O.S. from a spot 130 kms — 80 miles — east of Qatar and 80 kms — 50 miles — from the Iranian coast, around the Shah Allum deeps, where several tankers have been attacked since July.)

The incident occurred 36 hours after an Iranian offensive in the southern and central sectors of the Gulf war front triggered the fiercest fighting for seven months in the four-year-old conflict.

The last reported attacks on shipping in the Gulf took place last Friday, when the Iranian oil tanker *Sivand* was attacked as it left Khark Island oil terminal, and the Panamanian liquid natural gas tanker *Gas Fountain* was bombarded.

The *Pacific Protector*, which displaces 1,538 gross tons, was built in 1975 and belongs to Swire Supply Ships Corp. of Panama, according to Lloyd's.

Tehran Report on Attack

LD191714 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1656 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Persian Gulf shipping sources have said that a supply ship called *Pacific Protector* was attacked by an unidentified aircraft east of Qatar. According to these sources, as a result of this attack whose details are still unknown, the aforementioned ship is on the verge of sinking.

The 595-metric-ton ship is registered in Panama and is owned by a company based in Hong Kong. A spokesman for Lloyd's Insurance also confirmed that the attack took place at approximately 1130 Tehran time.

Presence of Turkish Forces in Iraq Denounced

GF190534 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] According to our correspondent, following the dissemination of news of the arrival of Turkish forces on Iraqi soil, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman announced that with the intensification of operations by Kurdish combatants in northern Iraq and the Saddam regime's incompetence in controlling these areas, the regime has reached such an abject state of impotence and helplessness that it has to utilize the forces of another country to crush these forays.

He stressed that this will not have any effect except to drag the Muslim Iraqi nation into disgrace.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman added: The Islamic Republic of Iran, while believing in the respect of the sovereignty of nations, is confident that the Muslim nation of Iraq will not tolerate such humiliation and will not permit the stationing of the forces of an alien country on Iraqi soil for the purpose of aiding the Saddamist regime.

We warn, that in such a sensitive region of the world, such acts can only serve to exacerbate tension and to endanger the security of the entire region.

Japanese Workers Evacuating Petrochemical Project

OW190203 Tokyo KYODO in English 0153 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18 KYODO — All Japanese personnel working for a giant Iran-Japan petrochemical project in southern Iran are due to arrive in Tokyo Saturday, according to the president of the Japanese partner firm.

Ren Takemura, president of Iran Chemical Development Co. (ICDC), told newsmen in Tehran that some 500 Japanese workers would leave Tehran Friday aboard two chartered Iranian Airways planes for home.

Japanese engineers have been returning home from time to time after two Iraqi bombing attacks in late September against the Bandar Khomeini, site of the 3.2 billion dollar complex which is 85 percent complete.

Takemura reached an agreement by Thursday with officials of National Petrochemical Co. (NPC), an Iranian partner, to let the Japanese evacuate from the site except for some who will take care of remaining miscellaneous matters.

Stressing that there is no plan to change the basic policy to complete the project under a complimentary agreement concluded last year, Takemura said that the construction of the project would resume whenever security is assured at the site through mutual negotiations.

Under the agreement, the Iranian partner will sustain all remaining construction costs for the project while the Japanese will continue the construction even during the war.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD191254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Millions of our Muslim compatriots attended Friday prayers today throughout the country. The Muslim and revolutionary citizens of Tehran also assembled at Tehran University and the surrounding streets to celebrate Friday prayers — this eternal Muslim tradition. The prayers were led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his second sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani referred to the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Ashrafi Esfahani, the martyrdom of Hajj Aqa Mostafa Khomeyni, and the martyrdom of the Sunni clergyman Fattahi by the counterrevolution, and recent events in Britain directed against the Conservative Party leaders. He said: The question of terrorism which the West has got itself involved in and in which it has been trapped is not to be ignored. To compare those who resort to terrorism for the sake of a sacred, popular, and national goal with someone who assassinates an 80-year old man in a mosque in a suicidal act is not a simple matter. On the other hand, when they hijack our aircraft, when the West receives the hijackers, or when the office of the Republican Party [of Iran] is blown up and several days later the perpetrator of the explosion is welcomed at a French base as a hero, then the Irish, the Basques, the Kurds, and all the other peoples of the world learn these things and practice them. Then the West calls both acts terrorism.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We are against these acts in principle; we favor logic. It is you [the West] who buy people and turn them into spies. You have no right to act against a revolution. Now is the time for the European palace dwellers to allow nations to proceed along their chosen path.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Recent events along the Turkish-Iraqi borders once again demonstrate the nature of the government ruling over Iraq.

On the basis of agreements reached between the two governments of Turkey and Iraq — agreements announced at the Turkish parliament — the Turkish Government is to enter the northern regions of Iraq in order to crush the Iraqi Kurds. This is taking place at a time when the Turks have territorial claims over these oil-producing regions.

Consequently, the Iraqi nation must remember that the regime ruling over that country — a regime which at one time was dreaming of taking over the oil-producing regions in Khuzestan — is now handing over for free its own oil-rich regions to another country.

I must say that although it is true that we are at war with the Iraqi regime, we support and protect the Iraqi nation and the interests of the Iraqi people, as well as Iraq's territorial integrity.

Meanwhile, we remind the Turkish Government to avoid placing itself at loggerheads with the Iraqi nation, for we shall not allow the Ba'th Party to survive for long in the region. As for you [Turkey], you are not only dealing with that alone.

Further on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sermon

LD191432 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, speaking during today's Friday prayers ceremonies in Tehran, said in connection with the operations during the past 2 days by Islam's combatants on the fronts:

[Begin recording] The events on the fronts in these 2 days were very, very interesting and instructive. There are certain things which I still cannot say in a public speech, but those things that I can reveal I shall do so in order to make you realize how interesting they are. For some time now world arrogance has disseminated misleading propaganda so much so that the Ba'thists themselves, who have a hand in the course of events, were about to believe it — perhaps they do believe it. World arrogance kept saying that Iraq's military power has increased; they kept saying it has weapons; they kept saying there are problems facing Iran; they kept saying the Iranians would no longer (?fight). They said these things and people began to think that maybe they were telling the truth and that such things were possible.

This morning I was listening to the "Foreign Radios Program" feature. The things they quoted from foreign radios, which had said such things, whetted Saddam's appetite and two events took place which clarified the situation a little. These two events were also interesting. On the basis of these events we can now tell our neighbors, the world, and the Iraqis themselves what the future will bring. Something happened on Wednesday, and on Thursday our forces also carried out a move. What took place on Wednesday is that the Iraqis brought a sizable force from eastern Basra toward our troops and attacked the Islamic Republic's earthworks at Zeyd. They attacked at 0900 and penetrated a distance of about 700 meters along our earthworks. At 1030 our forces counterattacked and within an extremely short time all the forces that had come over the earthworks were either killed or were captured. Some of them drowned and possibly some managed to escape during the fighting.

This was the state of their readiness and they imagined that the Islamic Republic was not preparing on this side of the front because of the reasons being said. They thought these were the facts! This lesson could be extremely instructive to them — that is, if they pay heed to it.

Before that they had begun certain mischiefs in the Meymak region. Meymak is an extremely sensitive region, and if one were to draw a straight line from Meymak toward the west it would pass right through Saddam's palace. It is a straight path. Coming from Mandali we would have to turn a little in order to reach Baghdad. The same goes for other places, but here the line is straight through. It is one of those places which in the old days attracted the attention of both Iraq and Iran. In the Algiers accord the most important point for the Iraqis was taking the Meymak heights from Iran. The explanation given by certain military experts was that the Iraqi Ba'th Party and the shah of Iran had exchanged half of Shatt al-Arab, or Arvand Rud, for Meymak. They still think of it as such.

Iraq obtained concessions on the land and the shah obtained concessions on the water. In the Shatt al-Arab we reached to the half-way line, the Thalweg line, which Iraq claimed but gave in return for modified borders on land. The important point for them was these Meymak heights. Of course, I do not exaggerate all that much. Yesterday, among the reports carried by the international telex was a report that one of the Iraqi commanders said: Whoever controls the Meymak heights controls Iraq. This is how sensitive the area on the other side is.

At the beginning of the war the Iraqis rapidly moved and quickly occupied this region. During the very first few months, when we began our defense, our combatants occupied part of these heights. But the important part of the heights remained in Iraqi hands. These last few days military intelligence has been telling us that the Iraqis are displaying movement here. They have moved to certain places. If they hit Salehabad, if their aircraft intruded there, if they fired their cannon at the hamlets, it was no minor event. It showed that they prepared themselves there in order to deal the coup de grace to the Meymak region. Our forces — and we have limited forces there, we are not all that strong there — the forces we had there rapidly made themselves ready. An immediate task faced them which required extremely rapid movement, which must now be definitely pulverizing the Iraqis. I am sure Saddam will execute several of his commanders in this connection — except that he will call it by another name. [laughter among the congregation]

Iranian troops captured those sensitive heights with a rapid movement within a few hours. These are not extensive operations. They are two inter-related movements. In both places Iraq's cunning designs were the prime cause and we merely moved for defense in this phase in order to fortify our positions. But the power of our combatants was obvious. I wonder what world arrogance will have to say about this.

This brings us to another important thing: See for yourselves. Just as we said, our forces from Hajj 'Umran to Al-Faw could be in the self-same situation which took place in Meymak and at the Zeyd outpost. It could happen everywhere. During this period we have prepared outselves throughout the fronts and we also have a program and a plan. The only thing holding us back — and here I am addressing our neighboring countries in the southern Persian Gulf and those who are unwarrantedly defending Saddam and thereby becoming more involved — the only important reason for delaying the attack is that an attack for us now, apart from being a military move, also has a political aspect, as noted by the president of our republic and chairman of our Supreme Defense Council.

In other words, when we wish to launch an attack our aim is not merely to take a piece of land, or to advance a few kilometers inside Iraqi territory, and so on. We now wish to launch an attack which will achieve a political result and solve the problem of Iraq and deal a fundamental blow to the Ba'th Party. Nor is dealing a blow at Iraqi territory the issue for us, nor dealing a blow to the Ba'thist army, nor the capture of tanks and artillery pieces. If these exist they are merely a preamble. Therefore, the reason for delaying the attack is only known to the Supreme Defense Council and certain high-ranking officials in the country and, above all, the imam.

The rest of you, when you make your fabricated commentaries, should not mislead on this or that topic for nothing. You should learn a lesson from these two small movements and refrain from backing that dangerous element and let the war problem be resolved without much bloodshed. You should let the Iran-Iraq problem be solved so that we can return the region to its proper place where you will live in security. The only insecurity remaining thereafter would be for Israel. [deafening roar of "Allah akbar"] [end recording]

Majlis Speaker on Security, Military Training

LD171949 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] The commanders of gendarmerie regiments and the directors of gendarmerie staff departments accompanied by Colonel Kuchekzadeh, the gendarmerie commander, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Ashtiani, the official in charge of religious and political affairs of the gendarmerie, today met with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis.

In a detailed speech at this meeting, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, describing the situation of the gendarmerie in the past and comparing it with the present situation, said: At the moment, a new situation has come about and the Islamic revolution demands from us that we do not waste the resources and interests of our people for the sake of pleasing today's world powers and their corrupt rulers in the region. Fortunately, during the past 5 years the gendarmerie has demonstrated that it is moving forward. According to the reports that we receive from far and near, the advancement and evolution of the gendarmerie and the services it has rendered have become clear.

Referring to the fact that after any revolution some of the issues should be solved through force and military power while some issues need the passage of time and the pacification of individuals, the Majlis speaker spoke of narcotics smuggling in the country and added: We do not find acceptable that in some agitated [ashub-khiz] parts of our border region we have neither roads nor gendarmerie posts. All these facilities should be provided in border regions such as Sistan and Baluchestan and greater attention should be paid to security and border issues. This is an area in which the gendarmerie should demonstrate its suitability, devotion, and effectiveness. Perhaps the value of the security forces and the gendarmerie may not be appreciated under normal conditions. However, in emergencies it can be seen how useful those forces are. Therefore, those forces should be prepared for emergencies.

Continuing his speech, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the issues of the Middle East and the struggles of the Muslim nations of the region against the regime occupying Jerusalem and said: Today, when despite the silence of the Arab countries in the face of Israel, the voice of the suppressed voice of the Palestinian people can be heard in the United Nations, and today, when the message of the wronged Lebanese nation can only be heard by the world through the Iranian people, we cannot expect the Eastern or Western powers to leave our revolution alone. Neither should we be expected to erect a wall around ourselves and leave them to their own devices. Although this would be a conciliatory

policy, imperialism would never leave us alone; it is not the case that they can leave Iran alone.

If they set up an aggressive government like that of Iraq next to our borders, they will be able to do the same everywhere else. Therefore, wherever we find ourselves confronted with an enemy that does not leave us alone, we will not remain indifferent toward their aggression in other parts of the world and against the Muslims. Although this policy entails some difficulties for us, nevertheless, its consequences and its sublime goals convince us of the correctness of this path.

Concluding, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his hope that the political and ideological officials through their ever-increasing efforts could eliminate the defects which had existed in the moral and cultural training of the military and that they would make sure that the military personnel advanced in both the technical and spiritual dimensions.

Speaker Sends Message to Kuwaiti Counterpart

LD182316 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Oct. 18, IRNA — A message from Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani was handed to his Kuwaiti counterpart Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adasani on Thursday by Iranian charge d'affaire here.

Contents of the message were not revealed but Al-Adasani was quoted as saying that Kuwait supports the plan for the expulsion of the Zionist regime from international organizations.

"Kuwait will bring up the issue of the expulsion of the Zionist regime from the Inter-Parliamentary Union in its next session," he said.

Majlis Rejects Defense Minister Nominee

LD181741 Tehran IRNA in English 1133 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA — The Majlis Thursday gave a vote of confidence to candidate for the Ministry of Education, Mohammad Akrami, and rejected the candidate for the Ministry of Defence.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, in a letter to the Majlis last Tuesday proposed Mohammad Akrami for the Ministry of Education and Colonel Farrokh 'Azimi-E'temadi as the minister of defence. The two posts have been vacant for the past couple of months.

The vote came after several hours of debate in the open session of the Majlis today and several deputies spoke in favour and against the nominees. At the opening of the session, the prime minister in a brief speech talked about the qualifications of the two nominees.

Out of the 207 deputies present in the session, 122 voted in favour of Akrami, 39 against and 26 abstained. Votes cast for the candidate for the Ministry of Defence was as follows: 76 in favour, 66 against and 40 abstained.

Reportage on Visit of Romanian Official

Received by Velayati

LD171119 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] This afternoon, the first deputy prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, who is visiting Tehran at the head of a high-ranking delegation, met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati. During this meeting, while conveying greetings from high-ranking officials of his country, the first deputy prime minister of Romania said he is visiting Tehran to follow up programs for expanding economic relations between the two countries. He said the delegation accompanying him is prepared to discuss various areas of cooperation and to increase the volume of commercial relations and economic cooperation as much as possible. He also expressed the readiness of the Romanian minister of foreign affairs to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr Velayati then referred to the need for cooperation between the two countries in international organizations in order to fight against the hegemonists and their agents, especially the regime occupying Jerusalem and its expulsion from international organizations. He described Romania's efforts for disarmament as positive steps. Mr Velayati also welcomed Romania's readiness to expand commercial relations and economic cooperation between the two countries. He expressed hope that the visit of the first deputy prime minister of Romania will be a step toward the expansion of bilateral relations.

Visits Dam Site, Factories

LD181013 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Arak, Central Pr. Oct. 17, IRNA — First Deputy Prime Minister of Romania Gheorghe Oprea here on an official visit inspected the construction site of Saveh dam being built in cooperation with Romanian experts south west of Tehran and north of here. He was accompanied in his visit by the Iranian Minister of State in Charge of Plan and Budget Organisation Dr. Mohammad Taqi Banki.

The Romanian official and his accompanying delegation then inspected Pars tyre manufacturing factory in the city of Saveh. The factory started production this year with an initial annual putput of 20,000 tons of tyres.

Banki and the visiting Romanian official reviewed outlooks for a projected mutual cooperation in the area of manufacturing equipments for use in tyre production factories.

The Romanian official today also visited Kaveh industrial complex and Saveh industrial satellite city.

Meets With Energy Minister

LD181019 Tehran IRNA in English 0913 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA — The visiting first deputy prime minister of Romania, Gheorghe Oprea, met and conferred with minister of energy, Hasan Ghafuri-Fard, here Wednesday night.

The Romanian official who arrived here last Monday heading a delegation, said there was great opportunity for the expansion of mutual technical cooperation.

Romania could cooperate with Iran in power plant and dam building, Oprea added.

The Iranian minister of energy hoped that Romania will take part in tender for power plants.

Oprea extended an invitation to Ghafuri-Fard to visit Romania which was accepted.

Received by Musavi

LD182323 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA — Prime Minister Musavi called for the expansion of ties with Romania when he met the Romanian first deputy prime minister, Gheorghe Oprea, on Thursday. Oprea said that ties grew noticeably after the Islamic revolution.

Musavi said the Islamic government tries to have ties with countries which are not aimed at political domination. The Islamic Republic "puts greater emphasis on relations with such countries rather than economic ties with superpowers," he said. Musavi expressed the hope that friendly visits would continue between Romania and Iran for the benefit of the two nations. Oprea expressed gratitude for the hospitality of the Tehran government.

Meets President Khamene'i

GF181912 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] President 'Ali Khamene'i today met with Gheorghe Oprea, Romanian first deputy prime minister, who is heading a delegation on a visit to Iran.

During the meeting, Gheorghe Oprea expressed his country's readiness to increase the volume of trade between the two countries in various fields, and delivered a message to Khamene'i from Romanian President Nicole Ceausescu.

The message contained President Ceausescu's desire to expand Iranian-Romanian relations and an invitation for the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to visit Romania.

In reply, Khamene'i expressed his gratitude for the Romanian president's friendly message and said that his country is prepared to expand its relations with Romania.

He said: There are similarities in the points of view of the two countries on world issues, especially in fighting imperialist domination and fascist policies.

Our people have taken very brave steps in this regard since the victory of the Islamic revolution.

Khamene'i concluded by saying that trade exchange and cooperation in various fields will enhance their positions in confronting world issues.